its competitiveness by providing it easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

**Excise Exemption to SSI Sector in Andhra Pradesh**

4277. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will die Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether excise exemptions are being extended, to SSI Sector in Andhra Pradesh for the promotion and development of this sector in the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other concessions being extended to SSI sector in Andiira Pradesh with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The benefit of General Small Scale Industries (SSI) Excise Exemption Scheme is being extended to all the SSI units, including in Andhra Pradesh, for the promotion and development of SSI sector. Under this Scheme. SSI units manufacturing specified goods with annual turnover upto Rs. 3 crores are eligible for full excise exemption upto Rs. 1 crore (without CEN VAT benefit) and exemption of 40% of normal duty upto clearances of Rs. 1 crore (with CENVATbencfit).

(c) The other concessions being extended to SSI units in the country, including in Andiira Pradesh, are (i) exemption from registration upto Rs. 1 crore value of clearances, (ii) exemption from filing a declaration upto Rs. 90 lakhs value of clearances, (iii) exemption to SSI manufacturers who manufacture the goods on job work basis, (iv) visit of Inspector and Superintendents of Customs and Central Excise to SSI units for checks only after being authorised by the Assistant Commissioner, (v) No separate accounts to be maintained by SSI units for excise purpose, (vi) submission of quarterly return instead of monthly return, (vii) payment of duty by SSI units on a monthly basis and (viii) deduction of 25% of the profits (30% for companies) for a period of 10 years under the Section 80-1B of the Income Tax Act for SSI units set up till 31st March, 2002. Besides, the incentives are also available to the SSI units under the Industrial Policy of Andhra Pradesh.